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Estimating Past Breast Height Diameters and Bark Thickness of Aspen in the Central Rocky Mountains

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Diameter inside or outside bark and past diameter may be estimated using the presented equations. Past and present outside bark diameters are tabulated for radial wood growth increments from 0.05 to 2 inches.

Keywords: Forest measurement, mensuration, *Populus tremuloides*

Using the formulas or table presented here, past breast height diameters may be estimated for aspen (*Populus tremuloides* Michx.) in the central Rocky Mountains. Necessary tree measurements are diameter breast height outside bark (d.b.h.o.b.) and breast height radial wood growth increment, in inches. In addition, current diameter breast height inside bark (d.b.h.i.b.) can be estimated given d.b.h.o.b., as well as d.b.h.o.b. given d.b.h.i.b. Bark thickness can be calculated by subtraction given d.b.h.i.b. or d.b.h.o.b. These relationships are useful in bark and stem volume determinations (Hush et al. 1982).

The linear relationships between outside and inside bark diameters were derived using regression techniques on data from 10,775 trees. Tree data were obtained from 105 temporary plots on eight national forests in Colorado, southern Wyoming, and eastern Utah. Bark thickness was measured to the nearest 0.05 inch at one point on each tree at breast height. Breast height diameters were measured to the nearest 0.1 inch. Diameters ranged from 0.6 to 25.4 inches.

Conversion of d.b.h.o.b. to d.b.h.i.b.:

$$\text{d.b.h.i.b.} = -0.0746 + 0.9375(\text{d.b.h.o.b.}) \qquad [1]$$
$$= f_1 (\text{d.b.h.o.b.})$$
$$R^2 = 0.9989, \ S_{y \cdot x} = 0.1035$$

Conversion of d.b.h.i.b. to d.b.h.o.b.:

$$\text{d.b.h.o.b.} = 0.0862 + 1.0655(\text{d.b.h.i.b.}) \qquad [2]$$
$$= f_2 (\text{d.b.h.i.b.})$$
$$R^2 = 0.9989, \ S_{y \cdot x} = 0.1104$$

To directly calculate past d.b.h.o.b, functional relationships f_1 and f_2 are combined as follows:

Past   d.b.h.o.b. = $f_2[f_1$(current   d.b.h.o.b.)
-2(radial   wood growth)]

By substituting in the appropriate equations and simplifying the expression, past d.b.h.o.b. is obtained for aspen.

Past   d.b.h.o.b. = 0.9989(current   d.b.h.o.b.)   [3]
-2.1310 (radial wood growth)
$+0.0067$

Results should be rounded to the nearest tenth of an inch.

Table 1 provides a tabulation of past outside bark breast height diameters for current values from 1.5 to 25.5 inches and for radial wood growth increments from 0.05 to 2.00 inches. Interior values provide estimates of past d.b.h.o.b. in inches. Values not directly represented may be obtained through linear interpolation or direct application of equation [3].

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Literature Cited

Hush, Betram, Charles I. Miller, and Thomas W. Beers. 1982. Forest mensuration. 402 p. John Wiley and Sons, New York, N.Y.

Table 1.—Present and past outside bark diameters (in inches) for aspen in Colorado, southern Wyoming, and eastern Utah.

Current d.b.h. outside bark — past d.b.h. outside bark

Radial wood growth	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5	5.5	6.5	7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5	20.5	21.5	22.5	23.5	24.5	25.5
0.05	1.4	2.4	3.4	4.4	5.4	6.4	7.4	8.4	9.4	10.4	11.4	12.4	13.4	14.4	15.4	16.4	17.4	18.4	19.4	20.4	21.4	22.4	23.4	24.4	25.4
0.10	1.3	2.3	3.3	4.3	5.3	6.3	7.3	8.3	9.3	10.3	11.3	12.3	13.3	14.3	15.3	16.3	17.3	18.3	19.3	20.3	21.3	22.3	23.3	24.3	25.3
0.15	1.2	2.2	3.2	4.2	5.2	6.2	7.2	8.2	9.2	10.2	11.2	12.2	13.2	14.2	15.2	16.2	17.2	18.2	19.2	20.2	21.2	22.2	23.2	24.2	25.2
0.20	1.1	2.1	3.1	4.1	5.1	6.1	7.1	8.1	9.1	10.1	11.1	12.1	13.1	14.1	15.1	16.1	17.1	18.1	19.1	20.1	21.1	22.1	23.1	24.1	25.1
0.25	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	10.0	11.0	12.0	13.0	14.0	15.0	16.0	17.0	18.0	19.0	20.0	21.0	21.9	22.9	23.9	24.9
0.30	0.9	1.9	2.9	3.9	4.9	5.9	6.9	7.9	8.9	9.9	10.9	11.9	12.9	13.9	14.9	15.8	16.8	17.8	18.8	19.8	20.8	21.8	22.8	23.8	24.8
0.35	0.8	1.8	2.8	3.8	4.8	5.8	6.8	7.8	8.8	9.7	10.7	11.7	12.7	13.7	14.7	15.7	16.7	17.7	18.7	19.7	20.7	21.7	22.7	23.7	24.7
0.40	0.7	1.7	2.7	3.6	4.6	5.6	6.6	7.6	8.6	9.6	10.6	11.6	12.6	13.6	14.6	15.6	16.6	17.6	18.6	19.6	20.6	21.6	22.6	23.6	24.6
0.45	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5	5.5	6.5	7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5	20.5	21.5	22.5	23.5	24.5
0.50	0.4	1.4	2.4	3.4	4.4	5.4	6.4	7.4	8.4	9.4	10.4	11.4	12.4	13.4	14.4	15.4	16.4	17.4	18.4	19.4	20.4	21.4	22.4	23.4	24.4
0.55	0.3	1.3	2.3	3.3	4.3	5.3	6.3	7.3	8.3	9.3	10.3	11.3	12.3	13.3	14.3	15.3	16.3	17.3	18.3	19.3	20.3	21.3	22.3	23.3	24.3
0.60	0.2	1.2	2.2	3.2	4.2	5.2	6.2	7.2	8.2	9.2	10.2	11.2	12.2	13.2	14.2	15.2	16.2	17.2	18.2	19.2	20.2	21.2	22.2	23.2	24.2
0.65	0.1	1.1	2.1	3.1	4.1	5.1	6.1	7.1	8.1	9.1	10.1	11.1	12.1	13.1	14.1	15.1	16.1	17.1	18.1	19.1	20.1	21.1	22.1	23.1	24.1
0.70		1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	10.0	11.0	12.0	13.0	14.0	15.0	16.0	17.0	18.0	19.0	20.0	21.0	22.0	23.0	24.0
0.75		0.9	1.9	2.9	3.9	4.9	5.9	6.9	7.9	8.9	9.9	10.9	11.9	12.9	13.9	14.9	15.9	16.9	17.9	18.9	19.9	20.9	21.9	22.9	23.9
0.80		0.8	1.8	2.8	3.8	4.8	5.8	6.8	7.8	8.8	9.8	10.8	11.8	12.8	13.8	14.8	15.8	16.8	17.8	18.8	19.8	20.8	21.8	22.8	23.8
0.85		0.7	1.7	2.7	3.7	4.7	5.7	6.7	7.7	8.7	9.7	10.7	11.7	12.7	13.7	14.7	15.7	16.7	17.7	18.7	19.7	20.7	21.7	22.7	23.7
0.90		0.6	1.6	2.6	3.6	4.6	5.6	6.6	7.6	8.6	9.6	10.6	11.6	12.6	13.6	14.6	15.6	16.6	17.6	18.6	19.6	20.6	21.6	22.6	23.6
0.95		0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5	5.5	6.5	7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5	20.5	21.5	22.5	23.5
1.00		0.4	1.4	2.4	3.4	4.4	5.4	6.4	7.4	8.4	9.4	10.4	11.4	12.4	13.4	14.4	15.4	16.4	17.4	18.4	19.4	20.4	21.4	22.4	23.4
1.05		0.3	1.3	2.3	3.3	4.3	5.3	6.3	7.3	8.3	9.3	10.3	11.3	12.3	13.3	14.3	15.2	16.2	17.2	18.2	19.2	20.2	21.2	22.2	23.2
1.10		0.2	1.2	2.2	3.2	4.2	5.2	6.2	7.2	8.2	9.1	10.1	11.1	12.1	13.1	14.1	15.1	16.1	17.1	18.1	19.1	20.1	21.1	22.1	23.1
1.15		0.1	1.1	2.1	3.1	4.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	10.0	11.0	12.0	13.0	14.0	15.0	16.0	17.0	18.0	19.0	20.0	21.0	22.0	23.0
1.20			0.9	1.9	2.9	3.9	4.9	5.9	6.9	7.9	8.9	9.9	10.9	11.9	12.9	13.9	14.9	15.9	16.9	17.9	18.9	19.9	20.9	21.9	22.9
1.25			0.8	1.8	2.8	3.8	4.8	5.8	6.8	7.8	8.8	9.8	10.8	11.8	12.8	13.8	14.8	15.8	16.8	17.8	18.8	19.8	20.8	21.8	22.8
1.30			0.7	1.7	2.7	3.7	4.7	5.7	6.7	7.7	8.7	9.7	10.7	11.7	12.7	13.7	14.7	15.7	16.7	17.7	18.7	19.7	20.7	21.7	22.7
1.35			0.6	1.6	2.6	3.6	4.6	5.6	6.6	7.6	8.6	9.6	10.6	11.6	12.6	13.6	14.6	15.6	16.6	17.6	18.6	19.6	20.6	21.6	22.6
1.40			0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5	5.5	6.5	7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5	20.5	21.5	22.5
1.45			0.4	1.4	2.4	3.4	4.4	5.4	6.4	7.4	8.4	9.4	10.4	11.4	12.4	13.4	14.4	15.4	16.4	17.4	18.4	19.4	20.4	21.4	22.4
1.50			0.3	1.3	2.3	3.3	4.3	5.3	6.3	7.3	8.3	9.3	10.3	11.3	12.3	13.3	14.3	15.3	16.3	17.3	18.3	19.3	20.3	21.3	22.3
1.55			0.2	1.2	2.2	3.2	4.2	5.2	6.2	7.2	8.2	9.2	10.2	11.2	12.2	13.2	14.2	15.2	16.2	17.2	18.2	19.2	20.2	21.2	22.2
1.60			0.1	1.1	2.1	3.1	4.1	5.1	6.1	7.1	8.1	9.1	10.1	11.1	12.1	13.1	14.1	15.1	16.1	17.1	18.1	19.1	20.1	21.1	22.1
1.65				1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	10.0	11.0	12.0	13.0	14.0	15.0	16.0	17.0	18.0	19.0	20.0	21.0	22.0
1.70				0.9	1.9	2.9	3.9	4.9	5.9	6.9	7.9	8.9	9.9	10.9	11.9	12.9	13.9	14.9	15.9	16.9	17.9	18.9	19.9	20.9	21.9
1.75				0.8	1.8	2.8	3.8	4.8	5.8	6.8	7.8	8.8	9.8	10.8	11.8	12.8	13.8	14.8	15.8	16.8	17.8	18.8	19.8	20.8	21.7
1.80				0.7	1.7	2.7	3.7	4.7	5.7	6.7	7.7	8.7	9.7	10.7	11.7	12.7	13.7	14.7	15.6	16.6	17.6	18.6	19.6	20.6	21.6
1.85				0.6	1.6	2.6	3.6	4.6	5.6	6.6	7.6	8.6	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5	20.5	21.5
1.90				0.5	1.5	2.5	3.4	4.4	5.4	6.4	7.4	8.4	9.4	10.4	11.4	12.4	13.4	14.4	15.4	16.4	17.4	18.4	19.4	20.4	21.4
1.95				0.3	1.3	2.3	3.3	4.3	5.3	6.3	7.3	8.3	9.3	10.3	11.3	12.3	13.3	14.3	15.3	16.3	17.3	18.3	19.3	20.3	21.3
2.00				0.2	1.2	2.2	3.2	4.2	5.2	6.2	7.2	8.2	9.2	10.2	11.2	12.2	13.2	14.2	15.2	16.2	17.2	18.2	19.2	20.2	21.2